

Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania

Medicaid/HealthChoices and Treatment for Addictions (PA's Act 152 of 1988)

Act 152 of 1988 expands the continuum of treatment for alcohol and other addictions available under state Medicaid and HealthChoices to include non-hospital residential detoxification, residential rehabilitation and halfway houses. Prior to the enactment of Act 152, state Medicaid covered limited outpatient and limited hospital treatment for addiction.

Act 152 of 1988 also assigns responsibility to the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Department of Health to develop criteria governing the type, the level of care and length of stay or treatment.

In addition, the statute required that an independent evaluation be conducted to study the impact of Act 152's residential services on criminal activity before and after treatment, employment and earnings before and after treatment and other factors. This evaluation was awarded to Villanova University and was completed in 1994. The report, "*Evaluation of the Implementation of Act 152: The Quantitative Findings*" found that the provision of residential services was highly correlated with reductions in crime and improvement in employment.

According to Villanova University, reductions in criminal activity were found to be . . . "most strongly associated with the use of non-hospital rehabilitation, both short and long term. This is the case for reductions in overall number of arrests and for decreases in charges related to violent crimes, property crimes and drug crimes." (Evaluation of the Implementation of Act 152: The Quantitative Findings, Executive Summary, page 10)

In addition, "Improvement in economic status, as measured by wages earned and quarters worked, are most strongly and commonly associated with long-term non-hospital rehabilitation." (Evaluation of the Implementation of Act 152: The Quantitative Findings, Executive Summary, page 10)

**ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE ACCESSING ADDICTION TREATMENT
THROUGH MEDICAID/HEALTHCHOICES?**

TELL US ABOUT IT – dasdbeck@hotmail.com